

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Action

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Rec'd. October 23, 1962
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Info

FROM: Kingston

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TO: Secretary of State

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NO: 804, October 23, 5 p.m.

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Initial Jamaican reaction to President's speech on Cuban crisis.

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Prime Minister went out of town this morning after telling press "no comment". I called on Governor General, Deputy Prime Minister Sangster, Manley leader opposition. Press has not yet commented.

Governor General said in his private view

Sangster said Cabinet will meet tomorrow (Wednesday) morning to discuss situation. Like Governor General his initial reaction was

Manley

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-2- 804, October 23, 5 p.m., from Kingston

Manley leader opposition told me this morning he withholding comment until GOJ states position, but his tone expressed doubts about US position.

Small group from pro-communist "friends of Cuba committee" formed at noon today in front of Embassy with placards, handbills protesting US action. Were quickly dispersed by police.

Comment: Political leaders appear to be waiting for lead from UK, Commonwealth, or UN. They also trying to sense local reactions which as yet unformed except for anxiety at suddenly finding themselves hapless bystanders along front line.

CHESLAW

MEM

Note: Advance copies to S/SO.

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